

## SENATOR FROM NEBRASKA



Photo by Nodell Studio, Chicago.

Elmer J. Burkett was elected United States senator from Nebraska for the six-year term, beginning in 1905, having been a congressman for six years previous. Mr. Burkett is an Iowan by birth, but is a graduate of the State University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he has resided ever since. He is 41 years old.

## TIMBER FINISH NEAR

### EXPERTS SEE END OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY YEAR 2000.

**Present Pace Is Declared Fearful Drain and Conservation is Urged as the Country's President Needs.**

Washington—Government experts and statisticians, who have given years of careful thought and study to the subject, are in accord that the important and pressing question of the times is the problem of the country's natural resources.

Thirty years is the limit set, if the present rate is kept up, when all the remaining virgin timber will be cut. The end of the century will see the available supply of coal greatly reduced if not entirely exhausted. The country is wasting not less than 1,000,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas daily, the heating value of which is roughly equivalent to that of 1,000,000 bushels of coal. The supply of iron, of which the United States furnished last year about one-half the production of the entire world, is so far from inexhaustible that it seems as if iron and coal might be united in their disappearance from common life.

With the disappearance of the forests, the check is being removed that retards the flow of the water, with the result that the rains run off quickly into the rivers and thence into the sea; it is an old French saying that if there are no forests there are no rivers.

Even the soil is being exhausted, by single-cropping and scanty fertilization; every year 1,000,000,000 tons of the richest soil matter is swept from the surface of the farms not properly protected, and dumped into the sea.

The suppositions of the scientists that future generations will witness the failure of the most important of the natural resources, it is declared, are not imaginary. Treadwell Cleveland, Jr., of the United States forest service, on this subject said:

"We need to look only a very little way ahead, as things are going now, in order to see them realized. True, the failure of the resources will not come suddenly, and such of our resources as can be renewed need never fail if we use them wisely. But the exhaustible resources, chief among which are the mines, are coming to an end as certainly as if the end were today, while those resources whose exhaustion is due not to necessity but to folly, have no future unless we insure it by our own provision."

The bureau of forestry has just issued a monograph on the subject of conserving the natural resources. It was edited by Mr. Cleveland, and is entitled "A Primer of Conservation." The primer summarizes in brief shape the whole movement for the husbanding of the nation's natural resources, and, in view of the bigness of the subject and the approaching sessions of the national conservation commission, is of exceeding interest.

Statistics are given in the primer showing the extent of past waste in the use of the natural wealth of the country, and quotes a large number of men prominent in national affairs, who urge using the natural riches of the

country with more prudence hereafter.

It shows how the conservation movement began with the establishment of the national forest policy,

and with the growing realization of the possibility of the exhaustion of the other natural resources than the forests, especially after the investigations of the inland waterways commission last year, broadened until it embraced all the material resources upon which the industries and civilization of the country rest.

### STUDIES NEEDS OF FARMERS

**Girl Walks 8,000 Miles in Ohio Viewing Rural Conditions.**

Norwalk, O.—Miss Eva Cornwell of Wakeman has just completed a remarkable tour over Ohio. In ten months she had walked 8,000 miles, all within the state, and made a study of the conditions in rural communities which would be invaluable to President Roosevelt in his effort to better the condition of the farmers.

The walk, which began on a winter, covered 37 counties, hundreds of towns and villages, and carried Miss Cornwell into almost every type of home within the state. Her average day's journey was 25 miles; on many days she walked as many as 40 miles.

"I found the trip a great benefit," she declares. "It strengthened me mentally as well as physically. It showed me that the one thing the farmer most needs is intellectual development—that has not kept pace with his material well-being. Farmers take things too superficially, avoiding discussions and studies that require concentration and deep thought."

### Formosa's Sugar Exports.

Formosa, with its population of 3,000,000, is running the Philippines neck and neck in the export of sugar. Each exported a value of \$4,000,000 in 1907.

### PRESIDENT'S ROOM AT RAILWAY STATION



Photo by Weston Fawcett.

Private reception room for the sole use of the president of the United States in the new \$6,000,000 railroad station recently completed at Washington. The station is conceded to be the finest in the world.

## DAM NEARLY READY

BIG STRUCTURE ON SALT RIVER HELPS OUT THE ROOSEVELT.

Granite Reef Barrier in Arizona Will Divert Great Stream and Supplement Irrigation Project of Great Importance.

Los Angeles, Cal.—One of the greatest of the group of reclamation enterprises now under way in the great arid southwest is the Granite Reef diversion project, now about completed, by which it is planned to irrigate 200,000 acres of arid desert land about Phoenix, Ariz.

Within a few weeks hundreds of thousands of gallons of water will be turned into the great canals of Arizona by a giant diverting dam on Salt river—a supplementary undertaking to the big Roosevelt dam, 69 miles farther up the river.

The Roosevelt dam is 388 feet high from the deepest point to the top and will keep back water, giving 200 feet depth at the dam, and is supposed to hold 7,000,000 acre foot of water. According to the present rate of rainfall it will take about six years to fill the vast reservoir back of the dam.

The Granite Reef dam is 1,600 feet long between the gates to the canals, and its purpose is not to impound water to any great extent, but to divert the rainfall above as it may occur, flowing down the Salt river, and also to distribute the waters from the Roosevelt dam, diverting the mighty stream into two streams or canals, one flowing from either side of the Granite Reef dam. The canals are 40 feet wide at the bottom and 10 feet deep. They are fortified with cement lining where needed.

The work of the Granite Reef dam is under the supervision of L. C. Hill, reclamation engineer, working under government instructions under the reclamation act. The enterprise was originally undertaken by an irrigation company, but its methods were not up to date, and its progress unsatisfactory to the government.

Although a great number of homesteaders had settled in the region supposed to be irrigated from the source, the supply of water was so irregular and unsatisfactory, because of the inadequate service, that many of the settlers were compelled to leave. Then the government stepped in, bought out the irrigation company for \$220,000, and immediately started operations to make the work a permanent and beneficial concern.

It is the plan, under the reclamation act, for the cost of the gigantic undertaking to be paid by the owners of the land benefited, they being required to meet a charge for water of \$20 an acre frituated, payable in ten equal annual instalments.

It is agreed, however, that the original holders of land who had already paid the irrigation company for the service will not be required to pay the government anything except the small annual maintenance tax, which all beneficiaries will pay over and above the assessment for wiping out the cost to the government of the work itself.

The importance of this work of the reclamation service cannot be exaggerated. What private companies failed miserably to accomplish, the government is doing surely and swiftly. The desert is to be reclaimed and the natural wealth of Arizona increased by untold millions through the Roosevelt and Granite Reef dams. This work will receive much attention during the irrigation congress at Albuquerque.

### Dealing with Troubles.

Take your troubles as they come, but don't have a passion for preserving them.

## Washington Whisperings

Interesting Bits of News Gathered at the National Capital.

### Next Mistress of the White House



WASHINGTON.—When Mrs. Roosevelt leaves Washington next March her place as first lady of the land and mistress of the White House will be taken by a woman gracious and tactful, of broad culture and in reflected strength, a fit hostess for the presidential mansion and a fit help meet for the president.

Mrs. William Howard Taft is no stranger to the White House. During her husband's term of service as war she was a frequent guest at Mrs. Roosevelt's and almost invariably near her place in the social life at the large presidential receptions.

In her girlhood days Mrs. Taft, then Helen Herron, was the home guest for several weeks of Presidents and Mrs. Hayes. This visit is said to be one

of Mrs. Taft's most highly-prized recollections, but it may be that in the earlier days in the White House she thought envied the maid of the young girl that one day she would become the mistress of the mansion.

The new cares and social duties which Mrs. Taft will have to take on may not necessarily be the easiest, but it is probably well that they are not to begin a woman untried for the place than the wife of the gay president. She has demonstrated the strength of character and an independence of mind, added to a good education, and a knowledge of art and travel.

It will demand considerably in Mrs. Taft that she will not only be able to converse fluently on subjects of public interest with her own congregation, but during at least one-half her time to discharge faithfully with freedom, skillfulness and deportment her place in the social life at the large presidential receptions.

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### Great Problem for Country Life Body



**T**HOUSANDS of the 10 million farmers, teachers, physicians, business men and others who were invited to cooperate with the commission on country life have already sent in replies to the list of questions asked them, although the ink is hardly dry on the printed sheets rushed out to them.

The members of the commission which was appointed by President Roosevelt to conduct this extensive inquiry into the conditions of farm life in the country over, have a problem of perhaps greater magnitude to work out than ever came before a similar commission. Not only is the subject of the inquiry one of great importance, but the breadth of its scope is such as to require the varied conditions of the whole country to be taken into account.

The amount of work involved will hardly be realized by the casual reader. The mere reading of the letters which are flooding in each day in answer to the questions is a difficult, though most interesting task, for the commission's incoming

and slow job. There is hardly time ahead for the commission to report to the nation, unless the those who happened to be on the list of invitees to whom the questionnaires had been mailed. Only approximately a few of the former, and their families could be reached in that way, and since the newspapers have been encouraged to bring the inquiry to the attention of the whole educated readers it is possible to reach the field cover so broad that it touches the interest of every one familiar with country life conditions. This is shown by the list of questions which are being asked the people of the country.

I often ask question an explanation for the reason of the condition is asked, and suggestions as to what should be done are invited. The fifth of the whole number is concerned in the concluding question. What are you doing in the most important single thing to be done for the advancement of country life?

The commission is anxious to hear from everyone who is acquainted with or interested in conditions surrounding the farm and to let a will reach their destination safely. It simply addressed to the Commission on Country Life, Washington, D. C. The names may be erased or by number or any phase of the subject discussed.

### American Patents Reach 900,000 Mark



**T**HE nine hundred thousandth patent from the United States patent office has been issued, and to it was attached the name of Patent Commissioner Moore.

The patent was an improvement on traveling stairs, such as are used in hotels and other large buildings, and while Mr. Moore ordinarily attaches only his last name, with his initials, he signified the attainment of the nine hundred thousandth by using his

full name of Edward Hines Moore. In the early history of the nation the law required that patents should be signed by the president, and as the first sign was issued during the first presidential administration, it was signed by President Washington. It covered a device for making peach staves, and the document itself is said to be now owing to a Chicago collector. Mr. Moore estimates that the one millionth patent will be reached in the year 1911.

According to show the inventive tendencies of the American mind, as compared with other countries, Mr. Moore calls attention to the fact that notwithstanding this among the nations the total of patents issued by the United States is not very far below the total for all other countries for all time.

### Widow May Sell Valuable Art Treasures



**I**F IT is true that Baron Speck von Sternburg left all his fine old silver and art treasures to his widow, and that she prefers to convert the collection into cash, American collectors will have a rare opportunity to obtain unique pieces.

Von Sternburg spent a good part of his big income in gathering silver, oriental bronzes and tapestry. It is said that he carried \$100,000 insurance on his collection, and that his bronzes and ivories surpassed many public museum collections.

Washington gossips say the baron could leave his widow, who was Lillian Langham of Louisville, only his private possessions, as his father is still living and none of the ancestral

wealth had come down to Speck from his mother, however, he received rich earnings in Galicia and from these he derived his wealth.

The state dining hall and the drawing rooms of the Von Sternburg home are filled with silver scutcheons and decorated plates that represent the earliest known work of workers at Nuremberg and Augsburg.

Oriental bronzes were part of the booty obtained by the baron's ancestor, Gen. Baron von Steinburg, who took a conspicuous part in the Thirty Years' war. These scutcheons belonged to an abbey near Dresden and bore memory tablets of dead abbots. When the scutcheons came to adorn Castle Sternburg the records of the Benedictines were removed and glass placed instead.

The great swan that was a conspicuous ornament on the Sternburg buffet attracted the attention of J. Pierpont Morgan when he was entertained in the embassy. This piece, it is believed, will go to the Morgan collection.